1850MNRAS..10..141H

Notes on the British Association Catalogue. By Capt. W. S. Jacob, Director of the H. E. I. C.'s Observatory at Madras.

The undermentioned numbers have not been found in the places indicated:—

		R.A.	N.P.D.
No. 90			
434			
		h m s	° ′
534	There is a star at	1 37 30 and	141 22
642	,,	1 57 33 ,,	143 45
969			
1088	is perhaps a duplicate of 1086, with error of 30′		
3401	There is ∗ 9 m. at	$9^h\ 49^m\ 45^s$	134° 14′
3535	Perhaps a duplicate of 3541, 30^s out in R.A.		
4144	,,	4146, 10^s	,,
7264	,,	7265, 1° out in N.P.D.	

"The Nos. 719, 2511, 2766, marked as nebulæ, appear in our transit (5 ft. focal length, and 3¾ in. aperture) as loose clusters of small stars. Of course these may be nebulæ not visible in our instrument.

"No. 2511 contains a small double star, which has been observed.

"Nos. 1728 and 1999 are double."

Mr. Hind says, "I discovered on the 4th of January last a rather conspicuous nebula, the position of which for 1850 is—

R.A. $12^h\ 0^m\ 33^s{\cdot}16$. N.P.D. 23° 59′ 30″·1.

"It is elliptical, and has a decided nuclear condensation.

"In October, 1845, I found a highly-coloured crimson, or even scarlet, star in *Orion*, far the most deeply coloured object I have yet seen. Its mean place for 1850 is—

R.A. $4^h\ 52^m\ 46^s{\cdot}76$. N.P.D. 105° 2′ 9″·3."

Mr. Fletcher sends the following remarks on the brightness of *Pollux*:—

"In the *Celestial Cycle* Captain Smyth remarks, 'This star has been suspected of varying in lustre, since it is recorded as having at times been *brighter* than *Castor*, whence Bradley rated it of the first magnitude; others have classed it of the 3d rank; but Ptolemy, Tycho, Lacaille, Zach, and all the best authorities classify it as of the 2d.'

"At the moment I am writing *Pollux* is obviously and unmistakably brighter than *Castor*, and I think it brighter, at any rate *fully* as bright, as α *Ursæ Majoris*. How long it may have been so I am unable to say, and can only speak of the present appearance."

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1850MNRAS..10..142S

Extract of a note from Mr. G. S. Spreckley, of Shang Hai, to *the Secretary, respecting η Argûs.*

" On my voyage from Suez to Penang, my attention was excited by the unexpected splendour of η *Argûs*, which is now a large first magnitude, surpassing every other star in the constellation except *Canopus*. . . . Seen with the naked eye, or with a glass, there was a manifest difference in colour between the rays of light from its SW. and from its NE. position, the former being brilliant red, and the latter a bluish green. Is it a double star ?"

Dr. Forster calls attention to the simultaneous phenomena of numerous solar spots and unusual cold, which have occurred since March 18th. It is remarkable, that during the nights of severest cold the wind has blown from the south and south-east, which is to be viewed in connexion with the extraordinary cold felt in the Levant, and particularly at Constantinople, during the present spring.

Discovery of a Comet at Altona.

Professor Schumacher has sent the following particulars of a faint telescopic comet discovered at the Observatory of Altona by Dr. Petersen :—

	Altona M.T.	R.A.	Decl.	
		h m s	° ′ ″	
May 1	10 0 0	19 25 0	+71 10 0	approximate.
2	11 0 0	19 24 7·9	+17 19 34	

Hourly Change in R.A. $= -2^{s}$; in Declin. $= +20''$.

Errors in Captain Shortrede's Table of Logarithms to Numbers.

By Mr. Galbraith.

Page	log. to	*for*	*read*
31	24451	3882996	3882966
43	38962	5906413	5906412
50 parts		729	728
56	54033	7326541	7326591
59	57628	7606336	7606335
59	57629	7606410	7606411
64	63747	8044597	8044598
81	85071	9296815	9297815
93	99286	9968800	9968880

London :—Printed by G. Barclay, Castle St. Leicester Sq.

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